

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254098

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, AG, IR

SUBJECT: TITO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: BELGRADE 5622

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT TITO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT  
FORD AS CONVEYED UNDER COVER OF A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM  
AMBASSADOR GRANFIL:

QUOTE: BEOGRAD, OCTOBER 15, 1975

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE OF 18 SEPTEMBER, FOR WHICH I  
THANK YOU MOST CORDIALLY. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT YOU  
AGREE WITH OUR EVALUATION THAT THE NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREE-  
MENT IN THE SINAI CAN CONSTITUTE A POSITIVE STEP AND A  
SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST, PROVIDED IT IS FOLLOWED BY FURTHER CONTI-  
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NUOUS EFFORTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE

SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS.

WE CONSIDER THAT OUR RECENT TALKS IN BEOGRAD, AS WELL AS THE MEETING BETWEEN OUR SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. HENRY KISSINGER AND MR. MILOS MINIC, IN

WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND USEFUL. WE APPRECIATE YOUR ASSURANCES THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS AND REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARD FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEWLY-CREATED SITUATION, NOTWITHSTANDING THE ACHIEVED RESULTS, CONTINUES TO BE FRAUGHT WITH NUMEROUS UNCERTAINTIES AND DANGER THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE PEACE UNLESS FOLLOWED BY NEW STEPS, WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, WHICH SHOULD SECURE ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THE REALIZATION OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL STATE. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY OF ALL THE STATES AND PEOPLES OF THE AREA.

I FULLY SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THE UNITY OF THE ARAB PEOPLES CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN THE BUILDING OF A JUST PEACE AND KEEPING THE CURRENT PROCESS OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS MOVING. I ASSURE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE, FOR OUR PART, HAVE ALWAYS POINTED OUT THIS FACT TO OUR ARAB FRIENDS. NOW THAT THE NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WE ARE CONTINUING TO DO SO, THROUGH OUR INTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE COUNTRIES THAT YOU HAVE MENTIONED ON YOUR VALUED MESSAGE.

BEARING IN MIND OUR JOINT STATEMENT DURING OUR RECENT TALKS IN BEOGRADE ON THE INDISPENSABILITY OF A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENT STANCE, AS THE MOST IMPORTANT OBSTACLE STANDING IN THE WAY TO PEACE, I WISH TO REEMPHASIZE THAT WE ATTACH EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE TO YOUR CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTION IN THIS REGARD.

AT THE SAME TIME, I WISH TO REASSURE YOU THAT THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA, TOO, WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT EFFORTS, WITHIN ITS POSSIBILITIES, WITH A VIEW TO ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD AN OVER-ALL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM. MOREOVER, WE FEEL THAT THE GRAVITY AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS CALL FOR AN ALL-OUT

ENGAGEMENT OF THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND, FIRST  
AND FOREMOST, OF THE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED, IN  
THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS IN ORDER TO AVOID A POSSIBLE  
NEW DANGER OF WAR AND ANOTHER BETRAYAL OF THE HOPES OF  
THE NATIONS OF THAT REGION WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH.

SINCERELY YOURS, JOSEPH BROZ TITO

HIS EXCELLENCY  
GERALD FORD  
PRESIDENT; OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
WASHINGTON, D.C. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: OCT PASS MPI.

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